

May 2010

# HF Happenings 404

SARL 85 Anniversary Sprint, Sun-  
day 16 May  
ZS4 Sprint, Sunday 23 May



## *SARL 85th Anniversary Sprint*

The objective of the contest is to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the founding of SARL. The contest is open to all licensed radio amateurs in Southern Africa. The contest will take place from 12:00 UTC until 15:00 UTC (14:00 to 17:00 CAT) on Sunday 16 May 2010.

Frequencies and Modes - 80 m CW 3 510 - 3 560 kHz, Phone: 3 603 - 3 650 kHz and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz; 40 m CW 7 000 - 7 025 kHz, Phone 7 060 - 7 100 kHz and 7 130 - 7 200 kHz; 20 m CW 14 000 - 14 060 kHz, Phone 14 225 - 14 350 kHz (ZR access). A station may be worked once on each mode per band. Stations can change modes at any time DX QSOs will be allowed Cross-band or cross-mode operation is not permitted.

All categories allowed - Single or Multi operator, Fixed, Field or Mobile stations. Maximum power allowed 100 watt PEP output or less.

The exchange for SARL councillors and ex SARL councillors is RS(T) and C (Councillor) or R (Raadslid). For all other participants - RS(T).

Scoring. Contact with non-councillor = 1 point; Contact with councillor / ex councillor = 3 points; Contact with ZS85SARL= 10 points. Claimed score = Total of all QSO points + number of councillors worked.

Prizes and Certificates. First place: ARRL Handbook and certificate; Second and Third places: Basic Antennas and certificate; Highest score Participants under 18 ARRL Handbook and certificate. All received log with 10 or more contacts will go into the draw for an ARRL Handbook.

Logheets shall be submitted within 15 days after the contest and must be sent to the West Rand Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 5344, Weltevredenpark, 1725 or by e-mail to [glevey\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:glevey[at]gmail[dot]com). Closing date for log submissions is 31 May 2010.

## *ZS10WCS News*

I received the following e-mail from Volker, ZS3Y, who operated ZS10WCS during April and made 3 617 QSOs. Well done Volker!

"Hi guys, there's 3617 log entries, quite a few stations worked me more than once (don't know why, once should be enough :-)) at least a few worked me on all three bands I could work on from here, 10, 15 & 20m. There are 129 DXCC entities in the log, all stations in this log called me, I never bothered to call anyone, otherwise the DXCC count would have been higher and T31SI amongst others could also have been in the log, but I figured, that would be cheating.

There are a few rarer ones that called me, ZS8, 4J, 9Y, C3, CO, E5/S, EX, EY, HB0, HC, HP, HR, J6, KL7, OX, OY, UK, XE and YI, the rest, I guess not all that rare.

Anyway, I am rather glad to relinquish the call to another club, this was a tough month and I certainly got rather cheesed off with the manners of



the stations around the Mediterranean area also a reminder about how many deaf hams seem to be active on HF these days, maybe a suggestion that a regular hearing test may be of value on renewing ones ham license ;-) Although this would certainly have to be implemented worldwide.

I hope this is all you need from me, it would be interesting to see how I fared compared to the other clubs, Dennis, let me have some stats please, (how many contacts/operator etc.)

Regards, Volker.

I have uploaded 13 359 QSO records to the ARRL's Logbook of the World and there are 2 188 QSL records. Looking at the DXCC information for ZS10WCS on LoTW, I see the following:

Mixed - 101 entities

CW - 66 entities

Phone - 83 entities

RTTY - 47 entities (includes PSK)

Coming back to the logbook I keep, I have the following information:

DXCC

Mixed - 181 entities worked

Phone - 165 entities worked

CW - 98 entities worked

RTTY/PSK - 97 entities worked

Worked all Zones

Mixed - 36 of 40 zones

Phone - 36 of 40 zones

CW - 28 of 40 zones

RTTY/PSK - 31 of 40 zones

Phone QSOs - 7 655

CW QSOs - 4 023

RTTY QSOs - 841

PSK QSOs - 831

FM QSOs - 9

Next week I will give a month-by-month break down.

### *The Antique Wireless Association Valve QSO party*

The Antique Wireless Association Valve QSO party will be held over the weekend of 8 and 9 May. The AM QSO Party takes place on Saturday 08 May and The SSB QSO Party on Sunday 09 May. The QSO Party runs from 15:00 to 19:00 CAT on both days.

The following frequencies on 40 and 80 metres may be used - 40 m 7 053 to 7 100 kHz and 80 m 3 603 to 3 650 kHz. The exchange is call sign, RS and a consecutive serial number starting at 001, and the type of radio used, eg HT37 Tx.

"In the arena of human life, the honours and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action." Aristotle

### May 2010

ZS10WCS operated by the  
Rietkol ARC

1 Worker's Day; May Day / Labour Day - Namibia

2 ZS3Sprint

3 Closing date Autumn QRP logs

8 PIC Course, Cape Town; AWA

Valve AM QSO Party; Mills on

the Air; World Red Cross Day

9 Mother's Day; AWA Valve

AM QSO Party; Mills on the

Air

12 International Nurses Day

13 Ascension Day - Namibia

14/16 Dayton Hamvention

16 SARL 85 Contest

17 World Telecommunications

Day; Closing date ZS3 logs

23 ZS4 Sprint

24 Closing date AWA Valve logs

25 Africa Day - Namibia

26 SARL Club CW Contest

28/30 WIA Centenary weekend

29 RTA, Durban; CQ WW WPX

CW

30 CQ WW WPX CW; Com-

rades Marathon

31 World No Tobacco Day



Scoring - all valve radio - 3 points per contact; Hybrid (valve and solid state) - 2 points per contact and Solid State Radio - 1 point per contact.

Log submissions must be sent to The Southern African Antique Wireless Association, PO Box 12320, Benoryn, 1504, or by e-mail to andy[dot]cairns[at]xsinet[dot]co[dot]za. The closing date for logs is 28 May 2010. Certificates will be awarded to the three top places in each category.

### *RaDAR Contest*

Over a 100 individual stations were logged during the April 2010 RaDAR contest. Most stations took part for fun. A few Potchefstroom club members took part individually sharing the same facilities and certainly can be commended for their high club spirit. From the logs received to date, the following category points were awarded:

Home stations using normal antennas and mains power

Theunis, ZS2EC/3 - QRP - 43

Derek, ZS2J - QRP - 20

Francois, ZS6BUU - 5

Home stations not relying on their normal antennas or mains power

None

Portable operation not relying on mains power, including all mobile stations

Andries, ZS6VL - 174

Pierre, ZS6BB (QRP) - 117

Coenie, ZS6PCO - 33

Carl, ZS6CFW - 21

Nico, ZS6NVR - 21

Kevin, ZS6KMD - QRP - 15

Mike, ZS6MEG - 6

True RaDAR portable operations not relying on existing antennas or mains power

Tienie, ZS6MHH - 124

True RaDAR portable operations as above and using QRP, output power limited to 5 watts PEP

Eddie, ZS6BNE - QRP - 250

Christo, ZR6LJK - QRP - 210

Allen, ZR1AAH - QRP - 105

John, ZS5J - QRP - 45

Check logs

Geoff, ZS6GRL

*Guess who forgot to submit his log? Maybe the trip to Bulgaria kept him too busy!!*

### *Call Back the Past*

I received an e-mail from Dennis Wells, ZS1AU, about a QSL card that he found dating to early in the previous century.

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S.A.A.R.L. \_\_\_\_\_ R.S.S.A. \_\_\_\_\_ A.R.R.L. \_\_\_\_\_ I.A.R.U. \_\_\_\_\_  
 To Radio W0 Cape Town, 5 July 1926  
 Your station was worked here at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Audibility R.S. QSB R.A.C. QSS QRM QRM QRM  
 Transmitter here: Reversed feedback \_\_\_\_\_ watts input.  
 Receiver here: Modified Reinartz, detector and one step.  
 (a) Single wire 86 feet long, working on 2nd harmonic.  
 Aerials: (b) Vertical pole 40 feet high.  
 (c) Hertz Oscillator, 50 feet long and 50 feet high.  
 Aerial current 1.4 amperes. You heard signals from aerial \_\_\_\_\_  
*Many thanks to you for your help*  
 "Myrtle Grove,  
 Irwell Street,  
 Observatory,  
 Cape Town, S. Africa.  
 J. S. STREETER.  
 Telegrams and Cables: "Streeter care Sidboth Cape Town"

"I have attached a card, which was a recent find, and I was very excited because I had not seen it before and I bet very few other radio amateurs have heard of or seen it.

The significance of this card is that it belonged to Mr J.S. Streeter, and gives the address of O-A4Z in 1926 as "Myrtle Grove", Irwell street, Observatory, Cape Town S. Africa.

You see, my grandfather lived next door to Mr Streeter, who was A1A in the earlier days around 1918 when my father Len Wells (formerly ZS1AU and ZS6FB ) was a teenager boy scout and was the first person to hear Mr Streeter over the "air " on a wireless loaned to my father by Mr Streeter. My grandfather, James Wells, had to hold the licence for the "mystery equipment" as my father was considered too young and his father was subsequently licensed A1B. So you see I am a 3rd generation radio amateur."

### *Morse/PSK Reader*

Vojtech, OK1IAK, has developed a small low power reader to decode Morse and PSK31/62 that is now available in kit form. It uses the MSP430 low power 16-bit general purpose controller to decode CW, PSK31 and PSK63. The unit has a very limited user interface, one needs to tune the radio with precision of 10 Hz using just a bar graph. The power consumption is extremely low <3.5 mA at min 2.75 V.

Steve Weber, KD1JV, is providing a limited number of kits of the unit, which uses Surface Mount Technology (SMT) components. He writes, "Vojtech's long awaited stand alone, low power CW/PSK decoder/reader is now available for order. I am doing the kitting and shipping for Vojtech."

The price for the kit is \$30.00 plus \$5.00 (\$35.00 total) for US postage and \$15.00 for DX (\$45.00 USD). It will be shipped in a flat rate Priority Mail box, as I didn't think to get any small boxes to ship this in and the LCD display needs to be shipped in a box for protection.

Steve KD1JV - QRP Radio Kits, <http://kd1jv.qrpradio.com/>

The manual for the Morse/PSK Reader is at <http://www.kufr.cz/~ok1iak/temp/decoder.pdf>

### *New DX book by Bob, W9KNI*

A press release by Idiom Press states: "Can a DXer from a small town in southwest Oregon hope to compete in the Big Leagues of DXing? Bob Locher, W9KNI, author of the best sell-

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ing DX Book ever, 'The Complete DX'er', set out on a mission to prove it was possible. 'A Year of DX' is Bob's personal account of the challenges, joys and sorrows in pursuit of the Holy Grail -- winning the CQ DX Marathon. Look over Bob's shoulder as he works country after country, yes, and missing a few along the way, but always trying to optimize his chances and the hope of logging the next one. Mixed in is a wealth of other material, some dealing with equipment optimization, some thoughtful, some humorous.

Anyone who enjoyed 'The Complete DX'er' will surely be delighted with this book. The two hundred and eighty pages include chapters on linear amplifiers, transmitter audio optimisation and propagation in a time of low sunspots." Cost of the book is 20.00 USDs (plus SH) is available at <http://www.idiompres.com/yearofdx.php>

## Pirate Alert

Charles, KY4P (ex-S9SS), reports that a station using the call sign S9SS and using the name Charles over the past few days is definitely a pirate.

## Marion Island, ZS8M

Pierre, ZS1HF, on Marion Island (AF-021), has hit the airwaves, but as ZS1HF/ZS8 and mainly working South African operators during his work schedule off times. No QSL cards will be issued under the ZS1HF/8 call sign.

Pierre informs that he will activate the ZS8M call sign in the region of 12 to 15 May or once the SA Agulhas returns to Cape Town. He states, "The base is heavily populated with scientists, researchers, old and new team members. Trying to run a DXpedition under these conditions will be unprofessional."

Pierre has not updated his ZS8M page recently, <http://www.zs8m.com>, but check out the SA Weather and Disaster Information Service (SAWDIS) Web page at <http://sawweatherobserver.blogspot.com/search/label/Marion%20Island>. Pierre has written some info and post pictures of the island and his radio equipment on the above URL.

## African DX

Mauritius, 3B8. Jan-Willem, PA7JWC, will be active as 3B8/PA7JWC from Pereybere, Mauritius Island (AF-049) between 5 and 22 May. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. His equipment is an ICOM IC-7000 into end-fed antenna for 20 m and dipoles for 40 and 15 m, and a vertical for 6 m. QSL via the LoTW or to his home call sign direct or by the Dutch QSL Bureau. For more info and updates, visit <http://www.pa7jwc.nl>

Ethiopia, ET3. Sid, ET3SID, was active this past weekend on 20 metres SSB (14 180 kHz) between 03:30 - 06:00 UTC. QSL direct to his home call sign.

Crozet Islands, FT/W, and Kerguelen Islands, FT/X. Gildas, F/TU5KG, will soon be fishing again around Crozet (AF-008) and Kerguelen (AF-048). He has the call signs FT5WQ and FT5XT and hopes to become active during shore leave.

Senegal, 6W. William, F1TZG, will be active as 6W/home call from Somone from 8 to 15 May. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters. QSL to home call.

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Upcoming South African Operations. A group of UK operators, who are dedicated enthusiasts and specialists that offer DX Tours and Safaris to Southern Africa, announced the following operations planned for 2010.

Swaziland (3DA) - August / September

Namibia (V5) - October (CQ WW DX SSB Contest)

Mozambique (C9) - November (CQ WW DX CW Contest)

The group states on their Web page: "We are looking for groups of individuals to participate in these proposed DXpeditions. All tours include Southern African transfers, accommodations, meals and equipment. Dates to be announced closer to the Events. Final pricing dependant on number in the group." If interested in one of these operations, visit the following Web page for more details - <http://www.3da0ss.net/index.htm>

Mozambique DXpedition. Anyone fancy a visit to Mozambique in October? David, GI4FUM, is running a DXpedition to Bilene, which is a costal resort on the Indian Ocean, 150 km north of Maputu.

They fly out from Heathrow on 13 October to Johannesburg, drive up to Mozambique and plan to run a station for Jamboree on the Air with local Scouts on the weekend of 16 and 17 October. The DXpedition will enter a station for CQ WW SSB over the weekend of 30 and 31 October. There will be plenty of opportunity for individuals to operate under their own C91 call signs and if you fancy sun bathing on an Indian Ocean beach in late African spring there will be plenty of opportunity for that too.

There are a few places on the team still available. If you want further details check out the CQ-DX African Safaris website at <http://www.3da0ss.net>.

### *Special Event Stations*

Bulgaria, LZ2010. Look for special event station LZ2010KM to be active between 1 and 31 May. Activity is to celebrate St Kiril and Methodius' Day. Operations will be on all bands and modes. QSL via LZ1BJ, by the Bureau (preferred). Logs will be uploaded to LoTW.

### *Club News*

The John Vorster Technological Secondary School Radio Club, ZS6JVT, will have a flea market stating at 08:30 CAT on Saturday 8 May 2010. The Club can be found at 1072 Meyer Street, Rietfontein, Pretoria.

### *Contest Calendar*

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 6 to 12 May 2010.

NCCC Sprint Ladder  
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 7 May  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 160, 80, 40 and 20 m  
Classes: Single Op  
Max power: 100 watts  
Exchange: (see rules)  
Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO;  
non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA  
station  
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and  
KH6) once per band; Each VE province once  
per band; Each North American country (ex-  
cept W/VE) once per band

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Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 9 May 2010

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

VK/Trans-Tasman 80 m Phone Contest

08:00 - 14:00 UTC 8 May

Mode: Phone

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op; Single Op QRP; Multi-Op; SWL

Max power: non-QRP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Serial No

Work stations: Once per hour

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 07:00 UTC 29 May 2010

E-mail logs to:

VK: [vktasman@hotmail.com](mailto:vktasman@hotmail.com)

ZL: [vktasman@robglassey.com](mailto:vktasman@robglassey.com)

Mail logs to: VK: VK/trans-Tasman Contest, 28 Crampton Crescent, Rosanna, VIC 3084, Australia

ZL: VK/trans-Tasman Contest, PO Box 21-363, Christchurch 8143, New Zealand

Find rules at:

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman/RULES.HTM>

EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party

10:00 - 12:00 UTC 8 May and 18:00 - 20:00 UTC 9 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: A: EUCW Member Club QRP; B: EUCW Member Club Low Power; C: Non-members QRP; D: Non-members Low Power; E: SWL

Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: A/B: RST, QTH, Name, Club and Member no; C/D: RST, QTH, Name and "NM"

Work stations: Once per day per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each EUCW club once per day per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 June 2010

E-mail logs to: [eucwfp@agcw.de](mailto:eucwfp@agcw.de)

Mail logs to: Werner Jochem, DK7VW, Wendelsborn 34, D-66606 St.Wendel, Germany

Find rules at:

<http://www.agcw.org/eucw/eucwp.html>

CQ-M International DX Contest

12:00 UTC 8 May to 11:59 UTC 9 May

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and satellites

Classes: Single Op Single Band - CW, SSB or Mixed; Single Op All Band - CW, SSB, Mixed; QRP Mixed or LP Mixed; Multi-Single; SWL

World War II Veteran; Pobeda Mem Spec Stn - Single-Op or Multi-Op

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RS(T) and serial no

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO for EU/Asia station with Russia; 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with different country, same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each RS-150-S country once per band, EU Russia and Asia Russia treated as separate mults

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 9 June 2010

E-mail logs to: [CQM@srr.ru](mailto:CQM@srr.ru)

Mail logs to: CQ-M Contest Committee, PO Box 25464, Krasnoyarsk 660049, Russia

Find rules at:

[http://www.srr.ru/CONTEST/cq\\_m\\_9\\_eng.php](http://www.srr.ru/CONTEST/cq_m_9_eng.php)

VOLTA WW RTTY Contest

12:00 UTC 8 May to 12:00 UTC 9 May

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op; SWL

Exchange: RST, QSO no and CQ Zone



Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: See rules

Multipliers: Each country and VK, VE, JA, ZL and W call area (see rules) once per band; each country on a different continent worked on at least 4 bands once (extra mult)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x total QSOs

Submit logs by: 30 June 2010

E-mail logs to: log2010[at]contestvolta[dot]it

Mail logs to: Francesco Di Michele, I2DMI, PO Box 55, 22063 Cantu, Italy

Find rules at:

<http://www.contestvolta.com/44volta-e.pdf>

Portuguese Navy Day Contest

15:00 UTC 8 May to 15:00 UTC 9 May

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op

Exchange: RS(T) and Serial No

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: See rules

Multipliers: Each prefix once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 29 May 2010

E-mail logs to: contest[at]nra[dot]pt

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.nra.pt/php/bdContestRules.php?lang=en>

Nevada Mustang Roundup

17:00 UTC 8 May to 17:00 UTC 9 May

Mode: CW, SSB, RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 m

Classes: Single Op Fixed - High or Low; Multi-Op Fixed - High or Low; Single Op Portable; Multi-Op Portable

Exchange: NV: county and RS(T); non-NV: state, province or country and RS(T)

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: NV Stations: Each state, province and country once; non-NV Stations: Each NV county once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 15 June 2010

E-mail logs to: w7gk\_1[at]yahoo[dot]com

Mail logs to: Nevada Mustang Roundup 2010, Elko Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 5607, Elko, Nevada 89802, USA

Find rules at: <http://nv.arrl.org/NQP/>

FISTS Spring Sprint

17:00 - 21:00 UTC 8 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: QRP; QRO; Club

Max power: QRO: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member

Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 7 June 2010

E-mail logs to: wa1lad[at]cox[dot]net

Mail logs to: Gil Woodside, WA1LAD, 30 Hill-top Ave., West Warwick, RI 02893-2825, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.fists.org/sprints.html>

50 MHz Spring Sprint

23:00 UTC 8 May to 03:00 UTC 9 May

Mode: not specified

Bands: 6 m Only

Classes: Single Op; Rover; Rookie

Exchange: 4-character grid square (6-character grid square optional)

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each 4-character grid square

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 25 May 2010

E-mail logs to:

[springsprintlogs\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:springsprintlogs[at]gmail[dot]com)





Mail logs to: 2010 Spring Sprints, c/o Chuck Towner, W9KQJ, PO Box 73, Palatine, IL 60078-0073, USA

Find rules at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/springsprints/web/2010-announcement-rules>

SKCC Weekend Sprint

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 9 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or "NONE"

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 14 May 2010

Post log summary at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/wes-submit.html>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/>

### *Next Week's Contests*

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 11:00 - 12:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 12 May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 13 May

RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 12 May

QRP Minimal Art Session, 19:00 - 23:00 UTC 13 May

His Majesty the King of Spain CW Contest, 12:00 UTC 15 May to 12:00 UTC 16 May

Manchester Mineira All America CW Contest, 15:00 UTC 15 May to 23:59 UTC 16 May

Feld Hell Sprint, 16:00 - 18:00 UTC 15 May 20:00 - 22:00 UTC 15 May

WAB LF Phone, 10:00 - 14:00 UTC 16 May

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 17 May

### *This week in History*

The week starting Monday 03 May 2010

1886 JT Pemberton invents the syrup flavour for Coca Cola

1895 Popov, in St Petersburg, uses a coherer to detect lightning

1897 Sir JC Bose, in India, demonstrates microwave transmissions

1899 The lawnmower was patented

1945 The end of WW2 in Europe

## VHF/UHF and Microwave News

### *Winter Months - Low VHF Activity*

Mike Bosch, ZS2FM, reports that the colder winter months are approaching and Tropo openings are on the decrease. TEP openings on 50 MHz from Division 6 to Europe are also coming to an end. However, our logs have indicated that there were quite a few unexpected openings in the past on Tropo during these cold periods, but you have to watch out for them.

But it is not all gloom and doom for VHF, this is the peak period for Meteor Showers. During the next four months the Earth will be passing through several major Meteor streams, such as the Eta Aquarids, Arietids, South Delta Aquarids and Perseids and later in the year the Orionids, Leonids and Geminids will also appear. All the abovementioned major meteor showers

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could provide countrywide analogue (SSB and FM) contacts on 50 and 70 MHz and possibly also on 144 MHz. The skip distance for 50 MHz is around 500 km. Digital operators should have a real field day!

The current SARL Meteor Shower distance records on analogue are 50 MHz - 1 929 km, 70 MHz - 1 181 km and 144 MHz - 1 524 km.

There is also the possibility of occasional Sporadic-E openings during the winter months, so keep an eye on the VHF beacons. The ZS6TWB beacon on 144,044 MHz from Polokwane has recently produced some strong bursts on Meteor Scatter.

### *Portable Satellite Operations*

On Saturday afternoon 2 May, Andre, ZS2BK, became the latest to join the Satellite Travellers Club when he came on the air on very short notice from the relatively scarce grid square KF47.

2010 has started out as an interesting year for satellite DXers with an unusually high number of portable operations in some of the parts of South Africa that are seldom heard on the satellites. Normally most of the more active satellite operators are in eight grid squares, but since the beginning of the year, I know of at least twenty-three South African grids that have been active and would help one qualify for the Satellite ZSWAGS-25 Award. There are also at least another ten grids active in nearby countries that could be used towards a Satellite VUCC Award. These would include stations in Gabon, Madagascar, Reunion, Sudan and Namibia. The trip which John, ZS6XK, has just started can also be expected to grow your DX totals in both DXCC countries and grids.

If you are going to be travelling in the next few months, why do you not take your portable satellite equipment along and make some contacts along the way. It increases the fun for everyone and may help out those working towards a ZSWAGS or VUCC award.

We all owe our thanks to those who have given up some of their precious holiday time to spend time contacting fellow amateur radio operators. Already the list for this year includes ZS1ACR, ZS1LS, ZS2BK, ZS2BZ, ZR6DEA, ZS6AC, ZS6BB and ZS6XK, but it is expected to be much longer before the year ends.

Why do you not add your call sign to the list? Asks Hal Lund, ZS6WB.

*Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.*

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Please share your copy of HF Happenings with your radio amateur friends and club members. Pass it along your club e-mail list

"In the arena of human life, the honours and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action." Aristotle